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President appoints Sen. Allen to Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

LANSING – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, has been appointed to the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation Board of Trustees by President George W. Bush.

“It is a distinct honor and privilege to be nominated by President Bush,” Allen said. “I look forward to serving the foundation and furthering its mission of discovery.”

The 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Americas was celebrated in 1992. The U.S. Congress commemorated the occasion by passing a law establishing the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Coins and Fellowship Foundation. It was originally funded by the sales of three denominations of specially minted coins sold by the U.S. Mint.

According to its website, the foundation is an independent federal government agency established to “encourage and support research, study and labor designed to produce new discoveries in all fields of endeavor for the benefit of mankind.”

Governed by a presidential appointed board of trustees, the foundation seeks to nurture and recognize pioneering individuals and programs which reflect the visionary spirit and pioneering heritage of the famed explorer.

“The research and discovery being done by the explorers of today encompasses the same vision Christopher Columbus had over 500 years ago,” Allen said. “It is important to keep his spirit of adventure alive in society today.”

Allen will serve the remainder of a six year term set to expire January 19, 2009.

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